

## ***FWP Commission Agenda Item Cover Sheet***

**Meeting Date:** August 18, 2011

**Agenda Item:** Proposed 2011 Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Approval of Proposed Rule

**Time for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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### **Background**

Late season migratory bird hunting regulations pertain to ducks, geese, swans, and coots. Montana participates in both the Central and Pacific Flyways and adheres to the federal frameworks established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the flyway councils. Frameworks are based on population status from winter surveys for geese and May population and habitat surveys for ducks. Duck seasons use an adaptive harvest approach with three specific regulation packages (restrictive, moderate, liberal). Habitat conditions and population numbers are good to the extent that liberal season frameworks are available for Montana to implement in 2011. In that light, proposed season elements are listed below.

#### **Central Flyway**

- Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 24-25 (2 days – limits below apply)
- Duck, Coot and Tundra Swan (500 permits only) Season: Oct. 1–Jan. 5 (97 days)
  - Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks or mergansers, possession limit twice daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 5 mallards no more than 2 of which may be hens, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 hooded mergansers, 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, and 1 canvasback.
  - Coots: 15 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit
- Goose Season: Oct. 1 – Jan. 13 (105 days)
  - Geese: Dark - 4 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit  
White -6 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit
- Falconry dates: Ducks and coots: Sept. 21 – Jan. 5; Geese: Oct. 1 – Jan. 13

#### **Pacific Flyway**

- Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 24-25 (2 days – limits below apply)
- General Waterfowl Season: Oct. 1–Jan. 13 (105 days)
- Scaup Season: Oct. 1-Dec. 23 (84 days)
  - Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers, possession limit twice daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, and 3 scaup.
  - Coots: 25 daily and in possession
  - Geese: Dark - 4 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit  
White - 6 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit
- Swan (500 permits only) Season: Oct. 8–Dec. 1
- Falconry dates: Ducks, coots, and geese: Oct. 1 – Jan. 13

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission adopt the proposed late season migratory bird regulations as presented by FWP.

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